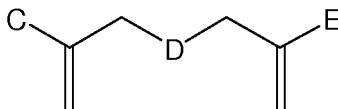


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. - 52 (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) A cross-linked polyether which is obtained by polymerizing a monomer of the general formula:



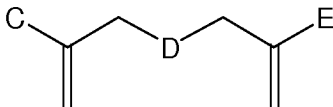
wherein

D is PEG, PPG, or poly(THF), and

C and E independently represent an electron-withdrawing group, an electron-releasing group, or a  $C_4-C_{36}$  aryl, wherein groups C, D, and E remain respectfully unchanged in every monomer polymerized a nitrile, wherein all the monomers of the cross-linked polyether are identical.

54. -60 (Canceled)

61. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a cross-linked polyether, comprising the step of polymerizing a monomer of the general formula:



wherein

D is PEG, PPG, or poly(THF), and

C and E independently represent an electron-withdrawing group, an electron-releasing group, or a  $C_4-C_{36}$  aryl, wherein groups C, D, and E remain respectfully unchanged in every monomer polymerized a nitrile, wherein all the monomers of the cross-linked polyether are identical.

62. -66. (Canceled)